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CONFIDENTIAL

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

SOURCE REF:

1	4	7	10
2	5	8	11
3	6	9	12

SUBJECT: PORTUGAL'S GENERAL SPINOLA MAY HAVE ASSUMED POWER

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PORTUGUESE ~~RE~~ GENERAL SPINOLA HAS "TAKEN OVER ALL POWER" AFTER A FOUR-HOUR CABINET MEETING, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS. THE PORTUGUESE NATIONAL RADIO ~~RE~~ CEASED TRANSMISSION ~~TEMPORARILY ABOUT~~ 0000 GMT AND THE STATION IS SAID TO BE OCCUPIED BY SOLDIERS AND POLICE; THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT NO NEWSPAPERS WILL BE PUBLISHED TODAY. ALL OF THESE REPORTS HAVE COME FROM AGENCIE FRANCE PRESSE.

THESE REPORTS ARRIVE AT A TIME WHEN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FACTIONS WITHIN THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT HAVE SHARPENED AND POLITICAL TENSIONS IN LISBON HEIGHTENED BECAUSE OF A PRO-SPINOLA RALLY SET FOR LATER TODAY. THE LEFT HAS CRITICISED THE RALLY AS "FASCIST-SPONSORED," WHILE THE CENTER AND RIGHT HAVE WELCOMED IT. VIOLENCE IS POSSIBLE AT THE RALLY

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